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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A negative active material for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

a core including crystalline carbon, amorphous carbon or a mixture thereof; and

a carbon shell formed around the core, the carbon shell including amorphous carbon with a metal selected from the group of consisting of a transition metal, a semi-metal, an alkali metal and an alkali earth metal.

- 3. The negative active material of claim 1 wherein the transition metal is selected from the group consisting of Ni, Co, Fe, Mo and Cr; the semimetal is selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Ga, Si, and Sn, the alkali metal is selected from the group consisting of Na and K; and the alkali earth metal is selected from the group consisting of Mg and Ca.
- 4. The negative active material of claim 1 wherein the amount of the metal is 0.1 to 25 wt % of the core.
- 5. The negative active material of claim 1 wherein the core has a planar distance of d_{002} of 3.35 to 3.7 Å of an X-ray diffraction plane distance at a (002) plane.

comprising:

A hegative active material for a rechargeable lithium battery

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a core including secondary particles, the secondary particle being prepared by agglomerating at least one primary particle of a crystalline carbon, an amorphous carbon or a mixture thereof; and

a carbon shell formed around the core, the carbon shell including amorphous carbon with a metal selected from the group of consisting of a transition metal, a semi-metal, an alkali metal and an alkali earth metal.

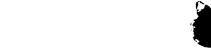
- 8. The negative active material of claim 6 wherein the transition metal is selected from the group consisting of Ni, Co, Fe, Mo and Cr; the semimetal is selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Ga, Si, and Sn, the alkali metal is selected from the group consisting of Na and K; and the alkali earth metal is selected from the group consisting of Mg and Ca.
- 9. The negative active material of claim 6 wherein the amount of the metal is 0.1 to 25 wt % of the core.
- 10. The negative active material of claim 6 wherein the core has a planar distance of d_{002} of 3.35 to 3.7 Å of an X-ray diffraction plane distance at a (002) plane.
- 11. A method of preparing a negative active material for a rechargeable lithium battery, comprising the steps of:

mixing an amorphous carbon precursor with a compound including a metal selected from the group consisting of a transition metal, a semi-metal, an

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alkali metal and an alkali earth metal;

adding the mixture to an organic solvent to prepare an amorphous carbon precursor solution; and

coating a crystalline carbon, an amorphous carbon or a mixture thereof with the amorphous carbon precursor solution.

- 12. The method of claim 11 wherein an agglomerating step is further performed with the coating step at substantially the same time.
- 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the coating and agglomerating step is performed by mixing-agglomerating the core with the amorphous carbon precursor solution, spray-drying or spray-pyrolyzing the amorphous carbon precursor solution onto the core, or freeze-drying the amorphous carbon precursor solution to the core.
- 14. The method of claim 13 further comprising a carbonizing step of the coated crystalline carbon, amorphous carbon or a mixture thereof.
- 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the carbonizing step is performed at 800 to 1500 $^{\circ}$ C.
- 16. The method of claim 14 further comprising a neutralizing or stabilizing step prior to the carbonizing step.